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LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We are deeply concerned at the news that five of our soldiers serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were injured in Bihać on 12 December 1994. According to the information we have received, the Bangladesh battalion was hit by an anti-tank missile in the area of Velika Kladusa.

Bangladesh, along with other Members of the United Nations, particularly troop-contributing countries, have all along supported efforts to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel, especially peace-keepers, deployed in conflict situations around the world. This outrage against the United Nations peace-keepers is merely a grim reminder of the realities on the ground and also underscores the need to address this issue in all earnestness, in a concerted and comprehensive manner. It also raises a larger question, namely, the sanctity of United Nations declared safe areas and the credibility of relevant Security Council resolutions. We would urge that urgent, immediate and forthright remedial measures be taken to deter continuing violations of safe area provisions and cross-border incursions and violations, restrictions on the freedom of movement and dire threats to the safety of UNPROFOR personnel, wherever they occur. We believe that the Council must remain vigilant and alert to anticipate and take forthright and preventive action, especially the use of air power, to halt artillery, mortar and tank attacks. These are fully justified by its existing United Nations mandates and even more so since there are indications that the peace-keepers, who were travelling in an armoured personnel carrier flying the United Nations flag, may have been deliberately targeted.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Reaz RAHMAN

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